



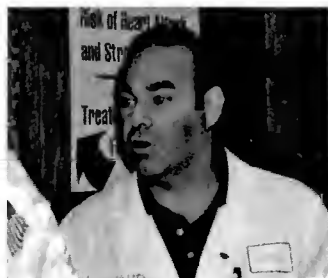
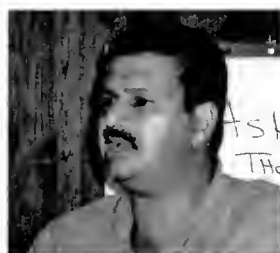
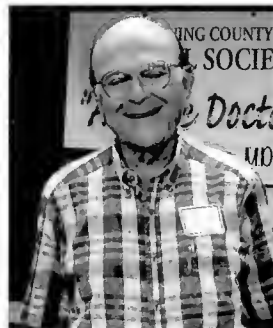
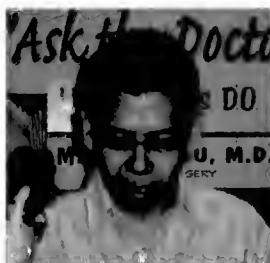
Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society

June - July - August 2005

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Bulletin

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CALENDAR

<i>Tuesday, November 8, 2005</i>	<i>Election Day</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 15, 2005</i>	<i>Enrollment opens for Medicare Drug Plan</i>
<i>Tuesday, January 24, 2006</i>	<i>Annual Meeting</i>

NEW DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE!

The 2005 Membership Directory is now available.
This year's directory includes Mahoning, Trumbull
and Columbiana County Medical Society members
and is bigger and better than ever. Every Society
member receives one complimentary copy of the
directory, with additional copies available to
members for \$35 each. Due to the size of the
directory, we will be hand-delivering them when
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Please make the following
change to your address book:
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From the President by Ronald M. Yarab, Jr., MD

I have nothing more to say!

See last issue.....

WE'VE MOVED!

The Mahoning County Medical Society has a new address. On June 29, 2005 we moved the office from the California Avenue office to 565 E. Main Street, Suite 220, Canfield, 44406. The new office is smaller than the old, and much less expensive. Since downsizing the staff four years ago, we no longer needed such large offices. The new space can still accommodate Council meetings and other groups of 12 to 15 people in the conference room. The biggest advantage to the move is the substantial savings in rent and utilities, which are included in the new space. You are welcome to stop by to see the new office, located on Route 224 just past Route 11. The building is on the left, just before Sky Bank.

565 E. Main Street, Suite 220

Canfield, OH 44406

Phone: 330-533-4880

Fax: 330-533-4940



MORE TALK ABOUT MEDICINE AND CARS

For years now, whenever asked by a patient "what's this going to cost?", part of my reply has been that no one pays sticker price when it comes to medical care. Now the analogy is even more appropriate.

I welcomed the news of GMS / employee pricing for all new cars with mixed emotion. First came GM, followed almost immediately by the other major manufacturers, in an effort to bolster sales during what must seem like a never ending slump. As a consumer I was ecstatic, but from a long term economic point of view I am very concerned. For the huge automotive industry to voluntarily offer a uniform "bottom line" price to all comers they must be pretty desperate. Sure, sales will jump, but once the buyer knows the real price, it's going to be hard turning back. Just ask the doctors.

While there were a number of physicians who were prophetic in their predictions of doom when Medicare was first proposed, the majority was either in favor it, or was unwilling to stop the law from passing. While it took about 20 years to sink in, all other providers of health insurance eventually realized what our "bottom line" was, then over the next ten gradually dropped their rates to hover within a gnat's eyelash of Medicare, which itself has over the same time steadily dwindled as a reasonable provider of payment for services rendered. This double whammy of a shrinking bottom line and all buyers paying the same price has wreaked havoc on the business of Medicine over time. One result is that physicians and hospitals must enhance revenue by driving up volume, not a hard thing to do as long as the buyer (patient) himself isn't pulling most of the money, if any, out of his pocket, and is therefore more easily convinced to buy our services, from tests, to surgeries, to prescription drugs. Amazingly, in the case of the latter, the buyer will even *demand* the cost be assumed by his designated payor so that he can have the newest and best, again without going directly to his wallet. I doubt even the UAW can include free new cars for their members in the next contract negotiations, although they will certainly hold on to their "free" health care with all they've got.

Initially, physicians and hospitals *volunteered* to participate in Medicare, essentially giving "employee pricing" to those who relied on the government in a way for their income and benefits (retirees for the most part, many on "fixed incomes"), and made up the difference in revenue by shifting costs to other payors, which worked for a while. Today, the automotive industry is slashing unit prices as part of a conscious business decision which is presumably based on some actuarial formula wherein if enough units are sold, even at a lower margin, a net profit will result. Let's hope so for their sake. They will still face, however, the larger long term problem of making a profit on lower annual sales after the current artificial bump in demand subsides, once the unit price goes back up.

If it goes back up. Not only does Detroit lack someone upon whom to shift the costs, they have now let the Genie out of the bottle so that when Mr. I Need a New Car goes to pull out his wallet, he will expect the price to be a lot lower than before. Unless Congress can pass a Prescription New Car Plan, or Anthem gets into the automotive business, I won't be envious of my local car dealer, and I wouldn't be picking up any long term stock positions in the automobile sector.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. S. Boniface MD".

Bits 'n' Pieces

The following physicians have left the area:

Beverly Atwater, DO
Uday Dasika, MD
Elizabeth Kann, MD
Ahmet Sevimli, MD
Gregory Mazanek, MD

Grace Smith, MD - dropped membership

Constantine Economus, MD
new phone and fax numbers:
Phone: 330-884-2400
Fax: 330-884-2018

New address effective September 7, 2005:
Roberto Bacani, MD & Daniel Barton, MD
3685 Stutz Drive, Suite 101
Canfield, OH 44406
Phone: 330-259-0440
Fax: 330-359-0441

New address effective October 3, 2005:
Scott Agnew, MD
Trumbull Mahoning Medical Group
901 Trailwood Drive
Boardman, OH 44512
Phone: 330-726-3000

Enrollment for the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan opens on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. Medicare beneficiaries have until May 15, 2006, to enroll in one of the 43 plans available in Ohio. If you did not attend the workshop explaining the program, you may access the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov to obtain more information.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:

Elisabeth Young, MD
St. Elizabeth Health Center
1044 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44501
Phone: 330-480-3752
Fax: 330-480-6601

James Pantelakis, MD
Fax: 330-726-9475

Thomas A. Bailey, MD
Phone: 330-792-2976 (Members by Specialty)

New address Effective October 3, 2005:
Angela Roberts, MD
Youngstown Community Health Center
726 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505
Phone: 330-747-9551

At the September meeting of Council, the resignations of Dr. Beverly Atwater and Dr. Robert DeMarco from Council were accepted. These positions will be filled when the Nominating Committee meets in early December. If you are interested in serving, please call the Society office at 330-533-4880.

Dr. Rashid Abdu has written a book, "Journey of a Yemeni Boy", recounting his life from boyhood in a country still in the dark ages to the attainment of his childhood dream of being a surgeon. The book is available from Dorrance Publishing Co., Pittsburgh, PA, and is well worth reading.

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NEW MEMBERS

John Cardone, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Yoon Group
500 Gypsy Lane, Suite 101
Youngstown, OH 44501

Medical Education: Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia, PA
Internship: UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, NJ
Residency: UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, NJ
Residency: Allegheny General, Pittsburgh, PA

Dominic Conti, DO

Family Practice

80 Marwood Circle
Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, OH
Internship: St. Elizabeth Health Center
Residency: St. Elizabeth Health Center

Andrei Gursky, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Yoon Group
500 Gypsy Lane, Suite 101
Youngstown, OH 44501

Medical Education: St. Georges University School of Medicine Grenada, West Indies
Internship: Western Reserve Care System
Residency: University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, TN

Russell A. Morrison, III, DO

Family Practice

Midlothian Medical Center
2010 E. Midlothian Blvd.
Youngstown, OH 44502

Medical Education: Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens, OH
Internship: Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital
Residency: St. Elizabeth Health Center

Gregory G. Smaroff, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Yoon Group
500 Gypsy Lane, Suite 101
Youngstown, OH 44501

Medical Education: St. Georges University School of Medicine Grenada, West Indies
Internship: Western Reserve Care System
Residency: Allegheny General, Pittsburgh, PA

Steven M. Swain, MD

Family Practice

20 Ohltown Road
Austintown, OH 44515

Medical Education: Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Rootstown, OH
Internship: Western Reserve Care System
Residency: Western Reserve Care System

Neal D. Tishman, DO

Emergency Medicine

Emergency Professional Services
6505 Market Street
Youngstown, OH 44512

Medical Education: University of Osteopathic Medicine & Health Services, Des Moines, IA
Internship: Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital
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